

7/21/06

**Selective Outrage**

Response to U-T Editorial

By Michael Aguirre, San Diego City Attorney

The U-T correctly noted that I stopped the questionable water department billing practices that had occurred under my predecessor at the City Attorney's office. However, the U-T deliberately omitted the fact that I also reported the matter over a year ago to KPMG, the City's outside auditor. I asked KPMG to review the billing practices in order to determine how it would affect their work on the City's 2003 audit. This is not turning a blind eye to possible corruption in the City Attorney's Office.

Furthermore, the City Attorney's Office is conducting an on-going internal investigation and if it determines that laws were broken individuals will be held accountable.

Finally, the U-T is silent when it comes to the \$20 million of charges heaped on the City in the last 18 months by Kroll. In fact, the newspaper ridicules those who find this reprehensible. This, too, is selective outrage and reveals an obsession with finding excuses for Kroll's tardy report.